

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

**Simple
H
Adopted**

Resolution

HOUSE RESOLUTION 1
Adopted 1/25/95

Sponsors: Representative Daughtry.

Referred to: Filed and Placed on Calendar.

January 25, 1995

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE INTERIM RULES OF THE REGULAR
2 SESSIONS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
3 THE 1995 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

5 Section 1. The interim rules of the Regular Sessions of the House of
6 Representatives of the 1995 General Assembly are:

7 **INTERIM RULES OF THE REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE**
8 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1995**
9 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

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19 **I. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1 **RULE 1. Convening Hour, Limitation on Friday, Night, and Sunday**
2 **Legislative Sessions.** – The House shall convene each legislative day at the hour fixed by
3 the House. In the event the House adjourns on the preceding legislative day without
4 having fixed an hour for reconvening, the House shall convene on the next legislative day
5 at 1:30 p.m. During January and February of 1995, no sessions may be held on Friday.
6 No session shall continue after 10:00 p.m. on Monday nor after 9:00 p.m. on any other
7 days, and the Speaker shall adjourn the House without motion at that point, except that a
8 motion may be made as to the time and day of next convening. No session shall be held
9 on Sunday.

10 **RULE 2. Opening the Session.** – At the convening hour on each legislative
11 day, the Speaker shall call the members to order and shall have the session opened with
12 prayer. At the convening hour on the first day of each legislative week the Speaker, or
13 his designee, shall lead the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

14 **RULE 3. Quorum.** – (a) A quorum consists of a majority of the qualified
15 members of the House.

16 (b) Should the point of a quorum be raised, the doors shall be closed and the Clerk
17 shall call the roll of the House, after which the names of those not responding shall again
18 be called. In the absence of a quorum, fifteen members are authorized to compel the
19 attendance of absent members and may order that absentees for whom no sufficient
20 excuses are made be taken into custody wherever they may be found by special
21 messenger appointed for that purpose.

22 **RULE 4. Approval of Journal.** – (a) The Standing Committee on Rules, Calendar,
23 and Operations of the House shall cause the Journal of the House to be examined daily
24 before the hour of convening to determine if the proceedings of the previous day have
25 been correctly recorded.

26 (b) Immediately following the opening prayer and upon appearance of a quorum,
27 the Speaker shall call for the Journal report by the Chair of the Standing Committee on
28 Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House or by a Representative designated by the
29 Chair as to whether the proceedings of the previous day have been correctly recorded.
30 Without objection, the Speaker shall cause the Journal to stand approved.

31 **RULE 5. Order of Business of the Day.** – After the approval of the Journal of
32 the preceding day, the House shall proceed to business in the following order:

- 33 (1) The receiving of petitions, memorials, and papers addressed to the
34 General Assembly or to the House;
- 35 (2) Ratification of bills;
- 36 (3) Reports of standing committees and permanent subcommittees;
- 37 (4) Reports of select committees;
- 38 (5) Reports of referral by standing committee Chairs of bills to permanent
39 subcommittees;
- 40 (6) First reading and reference to committee of bills and resolutions;
- 41 (7) Messages from the Senate;
- 42 (8) Concurrence with Senate amendments or Senate committee substitutes;
- 43 (9) The unfinished business of the preceding day;

- 1 (10) Calendar (each category in accordance with Rule 40):
2 (a) Local bills (roll call) third reading
3 (b) Local bills (roll call) second reading
4 (c) Local bills third reading
5 (d) Local bills second reading
6 (d1) Public bills and resolutions consent calendar:
7 1. (roll call) third reading
8 2. (roll call) second reading
9 3. third reading
10 4. second reading
11 (e) Public bills (roll call) third reading
12 (f) Public bills (roll call) second reading
13 (g) Public bills and resolutions, third reading
14 (h) Public bills and resolutions, second reading;
15 (11) Reading of Notices and Announcements; but messages and motions to
16 elect officers shall always be in order.

17 II. CONDUCT OF DEBATE

18 **RULE 6. Duties and Powers of the Speaker.** – The Speaker shall have
19 general direction of the Hall. The Speaker may name any member to perform the duties
20 of the Chair, but substitution shall not extend beyond one day, except in the case of
21 sickness or by leave of the House.

22 **RULE 7. Obtaining Floor.** – (a) When any member desires recognition for any
23 purpose, the member shall rise and respectfully address the Speaker. No member shall
24 proceed until recognized by the Speaker for a purpose.

25 (b) When a member desires to interrupt a member having the floor, the member
26 shall first obtain recognition by the Speaker and permission of the member occupying the
27 floor, and when such recognition and permission have been obtained, he or she may
28 propound a question to the member occupying the floor; but he or she shall not otherwise
29 interrupt the member having the floor, except as provided in subsection (c) of this rule;
30 and the Speaker shall, without the point of order being raised, enforce this rule.

31 (c) A member who has obtained the floor may be interrupted only for the
32 following reasons:

- 33 1. A request that the member speaking yield for a question,
34 2. A point of order,
35 3. A parliamentary inquiry, or
36 4. A question of privilege.

37 **RULE 8. Questions of Privilege.** – Upon recognition by the Speaker for that
38 purpose, any member may speak to a question of privilege for a time not to exceed three
39 minutes. Questions of privilege shall be those affecting, first, the rights of the House
40 collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings; second, the rights,
41 reputation, and conduct of members, individually, in their representative capacity only;
42 and shall have precedence of all other questions, except motions to adjourn. Privilege
43 may not be used to explain a vote or debate a bill. The Speaker shall determine if the

1 question is one of privilege and shall, without the point of order being raised, enforce this
2 rule.

3 **RULE 9. Points of Order.** – (a) The Speaker shall decide questions of order and
4 may speak to points of order in preference to other members arising from their seats for
5 that purpose. Any member may appeal from the ruling of the Chair on questions of
6 order; on such appeal no member may speak more than once, unless by leave of the
7 House. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present shall be necessary to sustain any
8 appeal from the ruling of the Chair.

9 (b) When the Speaker calls a member to order, the member shall be seated except
10 that a member called to order may clear a matter of fact, or explain, but shall not proceed
11 in debate so long as the decision stands. If the member appeals from the ruling of the
12 Chair and the decision by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present be in favor of
13 the member called to order, the member may proceed; if otherwise, the member shall not;
14 and if the case, in the judgment of the House, requires it, the member shall be liable to
15 censure by the House.

16 **RULE 10. Limitations on Debate.** – (a) No member shall speak on, debate, or
17 solicit cosponsors for, a bill or resolution at its first reading.

18 (b) No member shall speak more than twice on the main question, nor longer than
19 20 minutes for the first speech and 10 minutes for the second speech; nor shall the
20 member speak more than twice upon an amendment or motion to reconsider, commit,
21 appeal, or postpone, and then not longer than 10 minutes for the first speech and five
22 minutes for the second speech.

23 (c) A member may speak only once and for not more than 20 minutes on the
24 question of the adoption of a minority report.

25 (d) The House, by consent of a majority of the members present, may suspend the
26 operation of subsections (b) and (c) of this rule during any debate on any particular
27 question before the House.

28 **RULE 11. Reading of Papers.** – When there is a call for the reading of the
29 text of a paper which has been presented to the House, and there is objection to such
30 reading, the question shall be determined by a majority vote of the members of the House
31 present. Except for protests permitted by the Constitution, no member may have material
32 printed in the Journal until said material has been presented to the House and the printing
33 approved by the House, and said material shall not exceed 1,000 words.

34 **RULE 12. General Decorum.** – (a) The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum.

35 (b) Decency of speech shall be observed and disrespect to personalities carefully
36 avoided.

37 (c) When the Speaker is putting any question, or addressing the House, no person
38 shall speak, stand up, walk out of, or cross the House, nor when a member is speaking,
39 engage in disruptive discourse or pass between the member and the Chair.

40 (d) Food or beverages shall not be permitted on the floor of the House during the
41 first two hours of the daily session.

42 (e) The reading of newspapers shall not be permitted on the floor of the House
43 while the House is in session.

1 (f) Smoking or the consumption of food or beverages shall not be permitted in
2 the galleries at any time.

3 (g) Special recitals, performances by musicians or other groups shall not be
4 permitted on the floor of the House; and special guests of members of the House shall not
5 be permitted on the floor of the House.

6 (h) Members shall observe appropriate attire, coat and tie for male members
7 and dignified dress for female members.

8 (i) The use of cellular telephones shall not be permitted in the House
9 Chamber.

10 III. MOTIONS

11 RULE 13. **Motions Generally.** – (a) Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the
12 Speaker or any two members request it. No motion relating to a bill shall be in order
13 which does not identify the bill by its number and short title.

14 (b) When a motion is made, it shall be stated by the Speaker, or, if written, it shall
15 be handed to the Chair and read aloud by the Speaker or Clerk before debate.

16 (c) After a motion has been stated by the Speaker or read by the Speaker or Clerk,
17 it shall be in the possession of the House; but it may be withdrawn before a decision or
18 amendment, except in case of a motion to reconsider, which motion, when made by a
19 member, shall be in possession of the House and shall not be withdrawn without leave of
20 the House.

21 RULE 14. **Motions, Order of Precedence.** – When there are motions before
22 the House, the order of precedence is as follows:

23 To adjourn

24 To lay on the table

25 Previous question

26 To postpone indefinitely

27 To reconsider

28 To postpone to a day certain

29 To re-refer

30 To amend an amendment

31 To amend

32 To substitute

33 To pass the bill

34 No motion to lay on the table, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone to a day
35 certain, to commit or to make a particular amendment, being decided, shall be again
36 allowed at the same stage of the bill or proposition.

37 RULE 15. **Motion to Adjourn.** – (a) A motion to adjourn shall be seconded before
38 the motion is put to the vote of the House.

39 (b) A motion to adjourn shall be decided without debate, and shall always be in
40 order, except when the House is voting or some member is speaking; but a motion to
41 adjourn shall not follow a motion to adjourn until debate or some other business of the
42 House has intervened.

1 **RULE 16. Motion to Table.** – (a) A motion to table shall be seconded before the
2 motion is put to the vote of the House and is in order except when a motion to adjourn is
3 before the House.

4 (b) A motion to table shall be decided without debate.

5 (c) A motion to table a bill shall constitute a motion to table the bill and all
6 amendments thereto.

7 (d) When the question before the House is the adoption of an amendment to a bill
8 or resolution, a motion to table the bill is not in order; and a motion to table an
9 amendment applies to the amendment only, and the motion may not expressly or by
10 implication or construction be expanded to include a motion to table the bill also.

11 (e) When a question has been tabled, it shall not thereafter be considered
12 except on motion to reconsider under Rule 18, or to remove from the table approved by a
13 two-thirds (2/3) vote.

14 **RULE 17. Motion to Postpone Indefinitely.** – A motion to postpone
15 indefinitely is in order except when a motion to adjourn or to lay on the table or for the
16 previous question is before the House. However, after one motion to postpone
17 indefinitely has been decided, another motion to postpone indefinitely shall not be
18 allowed at the same stage of the bill or proposition. When a question has been postponed
19 indefinitely, it shall not thereafter be considered except on motion to reconsider under
20 Rule 18, or to place on the favorable calendar approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

21 **RULE 18. Motion to Reconsider.** – (a) When a question has been decided, it is
22 in order for any member to move for the reconsideration thereof, on the same or the
23 succeeding legislative day; provided that if the vote by which the motion was originally
24 decided was taken by a recorded vote, only a member of the prevailing side may move
25 for reconsideration.

26 (b) A motion to reconsider shall be determined by a majority vote, except the
27 following shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote: a second or subsequent motion to
28 reconsider, and a motion to reconsider:

29 (1) A vote upon a motion to table,

30 (2) A motion to postpone indefinitely,

31 (3) A motion to remove a bill from the unfavorable calendar,

32 (4) A motion that a bill be read twice on the same day, or

33 (5) A motion to remove from the table.

34 (c) A motion to reconsider the vote by which a person has been elected as Speaker
35 or Speaker Pro Tempore shall not be in order. This subsection of this rule cannot be
36 suspended.

37 **RULE 19. Previous Question.** – (a) The previous question may be called only by:

38 (1) The chair of the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operation of the
39 House;

40 (2) The majority leader;

41 (3) The member submitting the report on the bill or other matter under
42 consideration, by the member introducing the bill or other matter under
43 consideration; or

1 (4) The member in charge of the measure, who shall be designated by the
2 Chair of the standing committee or permanent subcommittee reporting
3 the same to the House at the time the bill or other matter under
4 consideration is reported to the House or taken up for consideration.

5 (b) The previous question shall be as follows: "Shall the main question now be
6 put?" When the call for the previous question has been decided in the affirmative by a
7 majority vote of the House, the "main question" is on the passage of the bill, resolution,
8 or other matter under consideration.

9 (c) The call for the previous question shall preclude all motions, amendments, and
10 debate, except the motion to adjourn or motion to table.

11 (d) If the previous question is decided in the negative, the main question remains
12 under debate.

13 IV. VOTING

14 **RULE 20. Use of Electronic Voting System.** – (a) Votes on the following questions
15 shall be taken on the electronic voting system, and the ayes and noes shall be recorded on
16 the Journal:

17 (1) The passage as required by Article II, Section 23 of the Constitution of
18 North Carolina, on second and third readings of any bill:

- 19 a. Raising money on the credit of the State,
- 20 b. Pledging the faith of the State for the payment of a debt,
- 21 c. Imposing a State tax, or
- 22 d. Authorizing a county, municipality, or other local governmental
23 unit to
 - 24 1. Raise money on its credit,
 - 25 2. Pledge its faith for the payment of a debt, or
 - 26 3. Impose a local tax.

27 (2) All measures affecting a fee imposed by the State or any subdivision
28 thereof.

29 (3) All questions on which a call for the ayes and noes under Rule 24(a) and
30 Article II, Section 19 of the Constitution of North Carolina has been
31 sustained.

32 (4) Both second and third readings of bills proposing amendment of the
33 Constitution of North Carolina or ratifying resolutions amending the
34 Constitution of the United States.

35 (b) Votes on the following questions shall be taken on the electronic voting
36 system:

37 (1) Second reading of all public bills, all amendments to public bills offered
38 after second reading, third reading if a public bill was amended after
39 second reading or if the reading occurs on a day or days following the
40 second reading, all conference reports on public bills, all motions to lay
41 public bills on the table, and all motions to postpone public bills
42 indefinitely.

43 (2) Upon a call for division.

1 (3) Any other question upon direction of the Speaker or upon motion of any
2 member supported by one-fifth (1/5) of the members present.

3 (c) When the electronic voting system is used, 15 seconds shall be allowed for
4 voting on the question before the House, unless the Chair shall direct otherwise. The
5 system shall be set to close automatically when that time has expired. Once the system is
6 locked, the vote shall be recorded and printed.

7 (d) The voting station at each member's desk in the Chamber shall be used only by
8 the member to which the station is assigned. Under no circumstances shall any other
9 person vote at a member's station. It is a breach of the ethical obligation of a member
10 either to request that another person vote at the requesting member's station, or to vote at
11 another member's station. The Speaker shall enforce this rule without exception.

12 (e) When the electronic voting system is used, the Speaker shall state the
13 question and shall then state substantially the following: "All in favor vote 'aye'; all
14 opposed vote 'no'; the Clerk will open the vote." In order to have the vote recorded, the
15 member must vote by the electronic voting system within the time allowed for that vote,
16 unless the voting station assigned to a member is malfunctioning. The Speaker shall
17 enforce this rule without exception. After the allotted time for voting has elapsed, the
18 Speaker shall say: "The Clerk will now lock the machine and record the vote." After the
19 machine is locked and the vote recorded, the Speaker shall announce the vote and declare
20 the result.

21 (f) One copy of the machine printout of the vote record of all votes taken on
22 the electronic system shall be filed in the office of the Principal Clerk, and one copy shall
23 be filed in the Legislative Library where it shall be open to public inspection. A legible
24 copy of the bill, amendment, or motion on which the vote was taken shall be filed with
25 the printout of the vote in the Legislative Library.

26 (g) When the Speaker ascertains that the electronic voting system is
27 inoperative before a vote is taken or while a vote is being taken on the electronic system,
28 the Speaker shall announce that fact to the House and any partial electronic system voting
29 record shall be voided. In such a case, if the Constitution of North Carolina or the Rules
30 of the House require a call of the ayes and noes, the Clerk shall call the roll of the House,
31 and the ayes and noes shall be taken manually and shall be recorded on the Journal. All
32 roll call votes shall be taken alphabetically. All other votes shall be taken by voice vote.
33 If, after a vote is taken on the electronic system, it is discovered that a malfunction caused
34 an error in the electronic system printout, the Speaker shall direct the Reading Clerk and
35 the Principal Clerk to verify and correct the printout record and so advise the House.

36 (h) For the purpose of identifying motions on which the vote is taken on the
37 electronic system, the motions are coded as follows:

- 38 1. To adjourn
- 39 2. To lay on the table
- 40 3. Previous question
- 41 4. To postpone indefinitely
- 42 5. To reconsider
- 43 6. To postpone to a day certain

- 1 7._ To re-refer
- 2 8._ To amend an amendment
- 3 9. To amend
- 4 10._ To substitute
- 5 11._ To concur or not concur
- 6 12._ Miscellaneous

7 **RULE 21. Voice Votes; Stating Questions.** – (a) When the electronic voting
8 system is not used, the Speaker shall rise and put a question.

9 (b) The question shall be put in this form, namely, "Those in favor (as the question
10 may be) will say 'Aye'", and after the affirmative voice has been expressed, "Those
11 opposed will say 'No'".

12 (c) No statement, explanation, debate, motion, parliamentary inquiry, or point of
13 order shall be allowed once the voice vote has begun. Any point of order or
14 parliamentary inquiry may be raised, however, after the completion of the vote.

15 **RULE 22. Determining Questions.** – (a) Unless otherwise provided by the
16 Constitution of North Carolina or by these rules, all questions shall be determined by a
17 simple majority of the members present and voting.

18 (b) No member may vote unless the member is in the chamber when the question
19 is put. This subsection of this rule cannot be suspended.

20 **RULE 23. Voting by Division.** – Any member may call for a division of the
21 members upon the question before the result of the vote has been announced. Upon a call
22 for a division, the Speaker shall cause the number voting in the affirmative and in the
23 negative to be determined. Upon a division and count of the House on any question, no
24 member away from the member's seat shall be counted.

25 **RULE 24. Roll Call Vote.** – (a) Before a question is put, any member may call
26 for the ayes and noes. If the call is sustained by one-fifth (1/5) of the members present,
27 the question shall be decided by the ayes and noes upon a roll call vote.

28 (b) Every member who is in the Hall of the House when the question is put shall
29 vote upon a call of the ayes and noes, unless excused pursuant to Rule 24.1A.

30 **RULE 24.1A. Excuse From Deliberations and Voting on a Bill.** – (a) Any member
31 shall upon request be excused from the deliberations and voting on a particular bill, but to
32 do so must make that request after the second reading of the bill and before any motion or
33 vote on the bill or any amendment thereto. If the reason for the request arises at some
34 point later in the proceedings, the request may be made at that time.

35 (b) The member may make a brief oral statement of the reasons for making that
36 request. The member may send forward to the Principal Clerk, on a form provided by the
37 Clerk, a concise written statement of the reason for the request, and the Clerk shall
38 include this statement in the Journal.

39 (c) The member so excused shall not debate the bill or any amendment to the bill,
40 vote on the bill, offer or vote on any amendment to the bill, or offer or vote on any
41 motion concerning the bill at that reading, any subsequent reading, or any subsequent
42 consideration of the bill.

1 (d) A member may request that his or her excuse from deliberations on a particular
2 bill be withdrawn.

3 RULE 24.1B. **Division of Amendments.** – Any member may call for an
4 amendment to be divided into two or more amendments to be voted on separately, and
5 the Speaker shall determine whether the amendment admits of such a division.

6 RULE 25. **Voting by Speaker.** – In all elections the Speaker may vote. In all
7 other instances the Speaker may vote, or may reserve this right until there is a tie in
8 which event the Speaker may vote; but in no instance may the Speaker vote twice on the
9 same question.

10 V. COMMITTEES

11 RULE 26. **Standing Committees and Permanent Subcommittees Generally.** – (a)

12 The Speaker shall appoint a Chair, or Cochairs, of every standing committee
13 and select committee, if any. In the construction of these rules, the word "Chair" as
14 applied to a standing committee extends to and includes a Cochair of the standing
15 committee. The Speaker shall have the exclusive right and authority to establish select
16 committees, but this does not exclude the right of the House by resolution to establish
17 select committees.

18 (b) All permanent subcommittees of each standing committee shall be appointed
19 by the Speaker and the members appointed, along with the Chair of the standing
20 committee, shall constitute the standing committee of which the permanent subcommittee
21 is a part. The Speaker shall appoint all members of permanent subcommittees at the
22 beginning of the first regular session in a manner to reflect the partisan membership of
23 the House.

24 (c) The Speaker shall appoint the members of all standing committees having no
25 permanent subcommittees, at the beginning of the first regular session in a manner to
26 reflect the partisan membership of the House.

27 (d) The first member announced on each permanent subcommittee shall be the
28 Chair. The Speaker may designate one or more Vice-Chairs.

29 (e) Each Chair of a permanent subcommittee shall be a Vice-Chair of the
30 standing committee of which it is a permanent subcommittee. The Speaker may name
31 other members as Vice-Chairs of the standing committee. The Speaker may name one or
32 more Vice-Chairs for any standing committee not having permanent standing
33 subcommittees.

34 (f) The Chair of the standing committee shall be a voting member of each
35 permanent subcommittee of the standing committee.

36 (g) Either the Chair or Acting Chair, designated by the Chair or by the
37 Speaker, and five other members of the standing committee or permanent subcommittee,
38 or a majority of the standing committee or permanent subcommittee, whichever is fewer,
39 shall constitute a quorum of that standing committee or permanent subcommittee. When
40 the Majority Leader or Speaker Pro Tempore is only an ex officio member of the
41 committee or subcommittee under subsection (i) of this rule, they shall not be counted
42 among the number of members for determining whether a majority is present; but if

1 present they shall be counted as one of five members present in determining a quorum
 2 under this subsection.

3 (h) In any joint meeting of the Senate and House committees or
 4 subcommittees, the House standing committee or permanent subcommittee reserves the
 5 right to vote separately.

6 (i) The Majority Leader and Speaker Pro Tempore are ex officio members of
 7 every standing committee and permanent subcommittee, with the right to vote.

8 **RULE 27. List of Standing Committees and Permanent Subcommittees. –**
 9 The standing committees and permanent subcommittees thereof are:

10 Committee	Subcommittees
11 Agriculture	(None)
12 Appropriations	-Education
13	-General Government
14	-Human Resources
15	-Justice and Public Safety
16	-Natural and Economic Resources
17	-Transportation
18 Business and Labor	-Economic Expansion and Growth
19	-Labor Relations and Employment
20	-Travel and Tourism
21 Education	-Community Colleges and Universities
22	-Pre-School, Elementary and Secondary Education
23 Ethics	(None)
24 Finance	(None)
25 Financial Institutions	(None)
26 Health and Environment	(None)
27 Insurance	(None)
28 Judiciary I	(None)
29 Judiciary II	(None)
30 Local and Regional	
31 Government I	(None)
32 Local and Regional	
33 Government II	(None)
34 Pensions and Retirement	(None)
35 Public Employees	(None)
36 Public Utilities	(None)
37 Rules, Calendar, and	
38 Operations of the House	(None)
39 State Government	-Boards and Commissions
40	-Military, Veterans, and Indian Affairs
41	-State Parks, Facilities, and Property
42 Transportation	-Airports, Railways, and Waterways
43	-Highways

1 -Public Transportation
2 Ways and Means (None)
3 Welfare Reform and
4 Human Resources -Aging
5 -Families.

6 **RULE 28. Standing Committee and Permanent Subcommittee Meetings.** – (a)

7 Standing committees and permanent subcommittees of standing committees
8 shall be furnished with suitable meeting places pursuant to a schedule adopted by the
9 Standing Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House. Select
10 committees shall be furnished with suitable meeting places as their needs require by the
11 Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

12 (b) Subject to the provisions of the subsection (c) of this Rule, standing
13 committees and permanent subcommittees thereof shall permit other members of the
14 General Assembly, the press, and the general public to attend all sessions of said standing
15 committees or permanent subcommittees.

16 (c) The Chair or other presiding officer shall have general direction of the meeting
17 place of the standing committee or permanent subcommittee and, in case of any
18 disturbance or disorderly conduct therein, or if the peace, good order, and proper conduct
19 of the legislative business is hindered by any person or persons, the Chair or presiding
20 officer shall have power to exclude from the session any individual or individuals so
21 hindering the legislative business.

22 (d) Procedure in the standing committees and permanent subcommittee shall be
23 governed by the rules of the House, so far as the same may be applicable to such
24 procedure. Before a question is put, any member may call for the ayes and noes. If the
25 call is sustained by one-fifth (1/5) of the members present, the question shall be decided
26 by the ayes and noes upon a roll call vote. All roll call votes shall be taken alphabetically
27 and shall be subject to Rule 21(c).

28 (e) No standing committee or permanent subcommittee shall meet on any day
29 when the House shall not convene except by permission of the Speaker or by approval of
30 the House by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the House.

31 (f) No standing committee or permanent subcommittee shall meet during any
32 session of the House. Standing committees and permanent subcommittees shall meet at
33 their regularly scheduled hour. No permanent subcommittee shall meet at the same time
34 that its standing committee is meeting. Standing committees and permanent
35 subcommittees may meet at other times as authorized by the Chair of the Standing
36 Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House in order to assure the
37 availability of the meeting room and that no conflicts will exist with the meetings of other
38 bodies. All standing committee and permanent subcommittee meetings shall adjourn no
39 later than:

- 40 (1) 15 minutes preceding a regular session of the House, and
41 (2) 10 minutes preceding the hour of the next regularly scheduled standing
42 committee or permanent subcommittee meeting.

1 (g) Any call or notice of a standing committee or permanent subcommittee
2 meeting between legislative sessions shall be mailed to each member of the standing
3 committee or permanent subcommittee at least five days prior to such meeting. If a
4 member of the body so requests in writing to the Chair of the standing committee or
5 permanent subcommittee, the member shall be notified by certified mail of the meetings.

6 (h) During standing committee and permanent subcommittee meetings, the
7 Chair may exercise the right to vote, or may reserve this right until there is a tie, in which
8 event the Chair may vote, but in no instance may the Chair vote twice on the same
9 question.

10 **RULE 28.1. Ethics Committee Investigations Into Violations of the Open**
11 **Meetings Law.** – (a) On its own motion, or in response to signed and sworn
12 complaint of any individual filed with the Standing Committee on Ethics, the Committee
13 shall inquire into any alleged violation by members of the House of the Open Meetings
14 Law (Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes), as the same may be amended
15 in the future.

16 (b) If, after such preliminary investigation as it may make, the Committee
17 determines to proceed with an inquiry into the conduct of any individual, the Committee
18 shall notify the individual as to the fact of the inquiry and the charges against him and
19 shall schedule one or more hearings on the matter. The individual shall have the right to
20 present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, and be represented by counsel at any
21 hearings.

22 (c) After the Committee has concluded its inquiries into the alleged violations,
23 the Committee shall dispose of the matter by taking one of the following actions:

- 24 (1) Dismiss the complaint and take no further action.
- 25 (2) Issue a letter of reprimand to the legislator, if the legislator
26 unintentionally violated the provisions of the Open Meetings Law.
- 27 (3) Issue a letter of reprimand if the violation of the Open Meetings Law
28 was intentional, or if the legislator has previously received a letter of
29 reprimand. The Chair of the Committee on Ethics shall have the public
30 letter of reprimand spread on the pages of the House Journal.
- 31 (4) Refer the matter to the House for appropriate action.

32 **RULE 29. Notice of Standing Committee and Permanent Subcommittee**
33 **Meetings and Hearings.** – Public notice of all standing committee and permanent
34 subcommittee meetings shall be given in the House. The Chair of the standing
35 committee or permanent subcommittee shall notify or cause to be notified the sponsor of
36 each bill which is set for hearing or consideration before the standing committee or
37 permanent subcommittee as to the date, time, and place of that meeting.

38 **RULE 29.1. Public Hearings.** – (a) Requests for a public hearing shall be made in
39 writing to the Chair of the standing committee and, if applicable, the Chair of the
40 permanent subcommittee to which the bill has been referred. The Chair of the standing
41 committee may schedule a public hearing by the standing committee as a whole after the
42 adjournment of a regular daily House session. The Chair of the permanent subcommittee
43 may schedule a public hearing before the permanent subcommittee at its regularly

1 scheduled hour. Denial of a request made by a House member may be appealed to the
2 Speaker.

3 Notice shall be given not less than five calendar days prior to public hearings.
4 These notices shall be issued as information for the press, and information shall be posted
5 in the places designated by the Principal Clerk.

6 (b) Persons desiring to appear and be heard at a public hearing shall submit
7 their request to the Chair of the standing committee or permanent subcommittee. The
8 standing committee or permanent subcommittee Chair may designate one or more
9 members to arrange the order of appearance of interested parties. A brief written
10 statement of testimony may be submitted without oral presentation and shall be
11 incorporated in the minutes of the public hearing.

12 **RULE 29.2. Minutes to Legislative Library.** – The Chair of a standing
13 committee or a permanent subcommittee shall insure that written minutes are compiled
14 for each of the body's meetings. The minutes shall indicate the members present and the
15 actions taken at the meeting. Not later than 20 days after the adjournment of each session
16 of the General Assembly, the Chair shall deliver the minutes to the Legislative Library.
17 The Speaker of the House may grant a reasonable extension of time for filing said
18 minutes upon written application of the Chair.

19 **RULE 30. Standing Committee of the Whole House.** – (a) A Standing
20 Committee of the Whole House shall not be formed, except by suspension of the rules, if
21 there be objection by any member.

22 (b) After passage of a motion to form a Standing Committee of the Whole House,
23 the Speaker shall appoint a Chair to preside in the standing committee, and the Speaker
24 shall leave the dais.

25 (c) The rules of procedure in the House shall be observed in the Standing
26 Committee of the Whole House, so far as they may be applicable, except the rule limiting
27 the time of speaking and the previous question.

28 (d) In the Standing Committee of the Whole House, a motion that the standing
29 committee rise shall always be in order, except when a member is speaking, and shall be
30 decided without debate.

31 (e) When a bill is submitted to the Standing Committee of the Whole House, it
32 shall be read and debated by sections, leaving the preamble to be last considered. The
33 body of the bill shall not be defaced or interlined, but all amendments, noting the page
34 and line, shall be duly entered by the clerk on a separate paper as the same shall be
35 agreed to by the standing committee, and be so reported to the House. After report, the
36 bill shall again be subject to be debated and amended by sections before a question on its
37 passage be taken.

38 VI. HANDLING OF BILLS

39 **RULE 31. Introduction of Bills and Resolutions.** – (a) All bills and resolutions
40 shall be introduced by submitting same to the Principal Clerk's office on the legislative
41 day prior to the first reading and reference thereof according to the following schedule:
42 by 8:30 p.m. each Monday, by 3:00 p.m. each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and
43 Friday.

1 (b) Bills shall not become resolutions provided the Senate has a similar rule.
2 Resolutions shall not become bills. Resolutions are not law but may be used when a law
3 is not necessary for the purpose contained therein. Resolutions shall not be used to
4 appropriate funds for any purpose, but may be used to create study commissions or
5 committees or establish investigative committees, to honor deceased persons, and to
6 adopt House rules and internal affairs. Resolutions cannot amend, repeal, or modify a
7 statute; nor do they have life beyond the term of the session during which they are
8 adopted.

9 (c) Every bill or resolution shall be read in regular order of business, except upon
10 permission of the Speaker or on the report of a standing committee.

11 (d) All bills and resolutions shall show in their captions a brief descriptive
12 statement of the true substance of same, which captions may thereafter be amended.
13 Captions of public bills may be amended only by amendment proposed by the standing
14 committee to which the bill was referred. Third reading shall not be had on any bill or
15 resolution on the same day that such caption is amended.

16 (e) A Substitute Bill shall be covered with the same color jacket as the original
17 bill and shall be prefaced as follows:

18 "House Substitute for" or "House Committee Substitute for _____".

19 (f) House Resolutions need not be read more than twice.

20 (g) All memorializing, celebration, commendation, and commemoration
21 resolutions, except those honoring the memory of deceased persons, shall be excluded
22 from introduction and consideration in the House.

23 **RULE 31.1. Deadlines on Introduction and Receipt of Limitation on Number of**
24 **Public Bills Introduced; Single Subject Rule.** – (a) All bills or resolutions
25 recommended by commissions or standing committees authorized or directed by act or
26 resolution of the General Assembly to report to the 1995 Regular Session of the General
27 Assembly, or to report prior to convening of that session, must be introduced not later
28 than the third Wednesday in February (February 15) of the first year of the biennial
29 session; provided that any such measure submitted to the Bill Drafting Division of the
30 Legislative Services Office by 4:00 p.m. on that date and introduced in the House of
31 Representatives before 3:00 p.m. on the next Wednesday (February 22) shall be treated as
32 if it had been introduced pursuant to this subsection.

33 (a1) All bills prepared to be introduced for departments, agencies, or
34 institutions of the State must be introduced not later than the first Wednesday in March
35 (March 1) of the first year of the biennial session; provided that any such measure
36 submitted to the Bill Drafting Division of the Legislative Services Office by 4:00 p.m. on
37 that date and introduced in the House of Representatives before 3:00 p.m. on the next
38 Wednesday (March 8) shall be treated as if it had been introduced pursuant to this
39 subsection. Bills introduced under this subsection shall be identified as an Agency Bill
40 after its short title.

41 (a2) All local bills must be introduced not later than the fourth Wednesday in
42 March (March 22) of the first year of the biennial session; provided that any such
43 measure submitted to the Bill Drafting Division of the Legislative Services Office by

1 4:00 p.m. on that date and introduced in the House of Representatives before 3:00 p.m.
2 on the next Wednesday (March 29) shall be treated as if it had been introduced pursuant
3 to this subsection.

4 (b) All public bills not containing appropriations or tax law changes must be
5 introduced not later than the last Wednesday in March (March 29) of the first year of the
6 biennial session; provided that any such measure submitted to the Bill Drafting Division
7 of the Legislative Services Office by 4:00 p.m. on that date and introduced in the House
8 of Representatives before 3:00 p.m. on the next Wednesday (April 5) shall be treated as if
9 it had been introduced pursuant to this subsection.

10 (c) All public bills containing appropriations and tax law changes, or containing
11 appropriations but not tax law changes, must be introduced not later than the fourth
12 Thursday in April (April 27) of the first year of the biennial session; provided that any
13 such measure submitted to the Bill Drafting Division of the Legislative Services Office
14 by 4:00 p.m. on that date and introduced in the House of Representatives before 3:00
15 p.m. on the next Thursday (May 4) shall be treated as if it had been introduced pursuant
16 to this subsection. All public bills containing tax law changes must be introduced not
17 later than the second Thursday in May (May 4) of the first year of the biennial session;
18 provided that any such measure submitted to the Bill Drafting Division of the Legislative
19 Services Office by 4:00 p.m. on that date and introduced in the House of Representatives
20 before 3:00 p.m. on the next Thursday (May 11) shall be treated as if it had been
21 introduced pursuant to this subsection. If any bill is eligible for introduction on account
22 of the date only under this subsection, and the bill is amended so that qualifying
23 appropriation or tax law change does not remain in the bill, it shall not be eligible for
24 further consideration.

25 (c1) All resolutions, except those honoring the memory of deceased persons or
26 adjourning the General Assembly must be introduced not later than the first Thursday in
27 May (May 4) of the first year of the biennial session; provided that any such measure
28 submitted to the Bill Drafting Division of the Legislative Services Office by 4:00 p.m. on
29 that date and introduced in the House of Representatives before 3:00 p.m. on the next
30 Thursday (May 11) shall be treated as if it had been introduced pursuant to this
31 subsection.

32 (d) In order to be eligible for consideration by the House during the first Regular
33 Session, all Senate bills other than finance or appropriations bills or adjournment
34 resolutions, must be received and read on the floor of the House as a message from the
35 Senate no later than May 11; provided that a message from the Senate received by the
36 next legislative day stating that a bill has passed its third reading and is being engrossed
37 shall comply with the requirements of this subsection and provided that the Senate has a
38 similar rule.

39 (d1) No member may introduce more than 10 public bills. For the purpose of
40 the subsection, the introducer is the member who is listed as the first sponsor. A member
41 may assign a portion of this limit to another member by notifying the Principal Clerk in
42 writing on a form prepared by the Principal Clerk. This subsection does not apply to bills
43 or resolutions recommended by commissions or standing committees authorized or

1 directed by act or resolution of the General Assembly to report to the 1995 Regular
2 Session of the General Assembly, or to report prior to convening of that session. This
3 subsection does not apply to joint resolutions or House resolutions.

4 (d2) Except by motion approved by a majority of members of the House
5 present and voting, no public House bill other than the Current Operations
6 Appropriations Act or the Capital Improvement Appropriations Act may contain more
7 than one subject.

8 (e) This rule, other than subsection (d2), does not apply to bills establishing
9 districts for Congress or State or local entities. This rule, other than subsection (d2), does
10 not apply to measures ratifying an amendment or amendments to the Constitution of the
11 United States.

12 **RULE 32. Reference to Standing Committee and to Permanent Subcommittees.**

13 – (a) Each bill, joint resolution, or House resolution not introduced on the report of a
14 standing committee shall immediately upon its first reading be referred by the Speaker to
15 such standing committee or permanent subcommittee as the Speaker deems appropriate.

16 (b) The standing committee Chair may refer each bill referred to the standing
17 committee to the permanent subcommittee specifically charged with the subject matter of
18 the bill. A report of that referral shall be made in writing and submitted to the body
19 pursuant to Rule 5(5). Except as provided in Rule 36, the permanent subcommittee to
20 which the bill is referred shall report the bill back to the full standing committee. That
21 subcommittee report shall include one of the following recommendations:

- 22 (1) Favorable, without prejudice, or unfavorable as to the original bill with
23 the recommendation that the report be made to the standing committee;
- 24 (2) Favorable, without prejudice, or unfavorable as to the original bill, as
25 amended, with the recommendation that the report be made to the
26 standing committee;
- 27 (3) Favorable or without prejudice to the proposed committee substitute,
28 and unfavorable to the original bill, with the recommendation that the
29 report be made to the standing committee;
- 30 (4) Favorable as to the original bill with the recommendation that the report
31 be made directly to the floor of the House, if approved by the standing
32 committee Chair;
- 33 (5) Favorable to the original bill, as amended, with the recommendation
34 that the report be made directly to the floor of the House, if approved by
35 the standing committee Chair;
- 36 (6) Favorable to the proposed committee substitute with the
37 recommendation that the report be made directly to the floor of the
38 House, if approved by the standing committee Chair, and unfavorable to
39 the original bill.

40 Any recommendation of favorable or without prejudice may include a
41 recommendation of re-referral to another standing committee. After a bill is reported to a
42 standing committee by a permanent subcommittee of that standing committee, the

1 standing committee Chair may re-refer the bill to another permanent subcommittee of
2 that standing committee.

3 Upon recommendation to the standing committee, the bill shall be before that
4 body for further action unless the permanent subcommittee Chair reports the bill directly
5 pursuant to Rule 36.

6 (c) When a committee substitute is adopted by a permanent subcommittee or a
7 standing committee for a bill which was introduced with no substantive provisions and
8 the committee substitute deletes a majority of the provisions of the original bill and adds
9 provisions that are not germane to the original bill, no further action may be taken by any
10 standing committee or permanent subcommittee upon such bill until the second
11 legislative day thereafter.

12 **RULE 33. Papers Addressed to the House.** – Petitions, memorials, and other
13 papers addressed to the House shall be presented by the Speaker. A brief statement of the
14 contents thereof may be orally made by the introducer before reference to a committee,
15 but such papers shall not be debated or decided on the day of their first being read unless
16 the House shall direct otherwise.

17 **RULE 34. Introduction of Resolutions and Bills, Copies Required.** – (a)

18 Whenever any resolution or bill is introduced, a duplicate copy thereof shall be
19 attached thereto, and the Principal Clerk shall cause said duplicate copy to be numbered
20 as the original resolution or bill is numbered, and shall cause the same to be available at
21 all times to the member introducing the same.

22 (b) Numbering of House Bills shall be designated as "H.B. ___." (No. following).
23 A Joint Resolution shall be designated as "H.J.R. ___." (No. following). A House
24 Resolution shall be designated as "H.R. ___." (No. following).

25 (c) Whenever any resolution or bill is filed for introduction, it shall be in a House
26 bill jacket containing 30 copies and in the form designated by the Speaker. Any
27 resolution or bill not accompanied by the required number of copies shall be immediately
28 returned to the introducer. The Clerk shall stamp the copies with the number stamped
29 upon the original bill.

30 **RULE 35. Duplicating and Availability of Copies of Bills.** – (a) The
31 Legislative Administrative Officer shall cause such bills as are introduced to be
32 duplicated in such numbers as may be specified by the Speaker. The Legislative
33 Administrative Officer shall cause one copy of each resolution and public bill for each
34 member to be delivered to the member's clerk or secretary who shall place it in the
35 appropriate notebook on the member's desk. If a member so requests, a second copy
36 shall be delivered to the member's clerk or secretary who shall place it in the member's
37 office. The remaining copies shall be placed in the Printed Bills Room and made
38 available to the committees to which the bill is referred, to individual members on
39 request, and to the general public.

40 (b) A public bill is a bill affecting 15 or more counties. A local bill is one
41 affecting fewer than 15 counties. No public bill and, upon objection by a member, no
42 local bill may be considered unless copies of the bill have been made available to the
43 entire membership of the House.

1 **RULE 35.1. Assessment Reports.** – Every bill or resolution proposing the
2 establishment of an occupational or professional licensing plan or a study for the need to
3 establish such a plan shall have attached to the jacket of the original bill or resolution at
4 the time of its consideration on second and third readings by the House or by any
5 standing committee or permanent subcommittee of the House, an assessment report from
6 the Legislative Standing Committee on New Licensing Plans pursuant to Article 18A of
7 Chapter 120 of the General Statutes. The assessment report shall not constitute any part
8 of the expression of legislative intent proposed by the formation of a licensing plan.
9 Upon receipt of the request, the Legislative Standing Committee on New Licensing Plans
10 shall prepare and return the assessment report as soon as possible but not later than 60
11 days, reserving the right to extend this time to 90 days.

12 **RULE 36. Report by Standing Committee or Permanent Subcommittee.** –
13 All House bills and resolutions shall be reported from the standing committee or
14 permanent subcommittee to which referred with such recommendations as the standing
15 committee or permanent subcommittee may desire to make except in the case where the
16 principal introducer requests in writing to the Chair of the standing committee or
17 permanent subcommittee that the bill not be considered.

18 With the written approval of the Chair of the standing committee and with the
19 recommendation of the subcommittee pursuant to Rule 32(4) through (6), the Chair of the
20 permanent subcommittee may report the bill directly to the floor with that
21 recommendation. If a permanent subcommittee recommends reporting a bill to the floor
22 and the Chair of the standing committee fails to give approval, the bill shall be deemed to
23 have been reported to the standing committee with the same recommendation as the
24 subcommittee would have made to the House.

25 (a) **Favorable Report.** When a standing committee or permanent subcommittee
26 reports a bill with the recommendation that it be passed, the bill shall be placed on the
27 favorable calendar on the day (no earlier than the next legislative day) designated by the
28 Chair of the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House, except that in
29 the absence of the Chair of the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the
30 House, the Speaker may take such action, and except that bills on the Public Consent
31 Calendar shall be placed on the favorable calendar as provided by Rule 40. In order to
32 place a bill on the calendar for a legislative day, notice shall be given orally in the House
33 no later than the previous legislative day, or notice shall be given in writing to the
34 Principal Clerk no later than the later of one hour after adjournment or 3:30 p.m. on the
35 previous legislative day. When a committee substitute is adopted and receives a
36 favorable report by the committee or permanent subcommittee, the standing committee or
37 permanent subcommittee Chair shall submit to the standing committee or permanent
38 subcommittee the question of an unfavorable report on the original bill. The standing
39 committee's or permanent subcommittee's action, if any, on the original bill shall be
40 reported at the same time the committee substitute is reported.

41 (b) **Report Without Prejudice.** When a standing committee reports a bill without
42 prejudice, the bill shall be placed on the favorable calendar in the same manner as
43 provided in subsection (a) of this rule.

1 (c) **Postponed Indefinitely.** When a standing committee reports a bill with the
2 recommendation that it be postponed indefinitely and no minority report accompanies it,
3 the bill shall be placed on the unfavorable calendar.

4 (d) **Unfavorable Report.** When a standing committee reports a bill with the
5 recommendation that it be not passed and no minority report accompanies it, the bill shall
6 be placed on the unfavorable calendar.

7 (e) **Minority Report.** When a bill is reported by a standing committee with a
8 recommendation that it be not passed or that it be postponed indefinitely, but it is
9 accompanied by a minority report signed by at least one-fourth (1/4) of the members of
10 the standing committee who were present and voting when the bill was considered in
11 standing committee, the question before the House shall be: "The adoption of the
12 minority report." If the minority report is adopted by majority vote, the bill shall be
13 placed on the favorable calendar for consideration. If the minority report fails of
14 adoption by a majority vote, the bill shall be placed on the unfavorable calendar.

15 **RULE 36.1. Fiscal Notes.** – (a) The Chair or Cochair of the Appropriations
16 Committee, of the Finance Committee or of the Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the
17 House Committee, upon the floor of the House may request that a fiscal analysis be made
18 of a bill, resolution, or an amendment to a bill or resolution which is in the possession of
19 the House and that a fiscal note be attached to the measure, when in the opinion of that
20 Chair the fiscal effects of that measure are not apparent from the language of the
21 measure.

22 (b) The fiscal note shall be filed and attached to the bill or amendment within two
23 legislative days of the request. If it is impossible to prepare a fiscal note within two
24 legislative days, the Director of Fiscal Research shall, in writing, so advise the Speaker,
25 the Principal Clerk, and the member introducing or proposing the measure and shall
26 indicate the time when the fiscal note will be ready.

27 (c) The fiscal note shall be prepared by the Fiscal Research Division on a form
28 approved by the Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House Committee as to content
29 and form and signed by the staff member or members preparing it. If no estimate in
30 dollars is possible, the fiscal note shall indicate the reasons that no estimate is provided.
31 The fiscal note shall not comment on the merit but may identify technical problems. The
32 Fiscal Research Division shall make the fiscal note available to the membership of the
33 House.

34 (d) A sponsor of a bill or amendment may deliver a copy of the bill or amendment
35 to the Fiscal Research Division for the preparation of a fiscal note. The sponsor shall
36 attach the fiscal note to the bill when filed or to the amendment when its adoption is
37 moved.

38 (e) The sponsor of a bill or amendment to which a fiscal note is attached who
39 objects to the estimates and information provided may reduce to writing the objections.
40 These objections shall be appended to the fiscal note attached to the bill or amendment
41 and to the copies of the fiscal note available to the membership.

1 (f) Subsection (a) of this rule shall not apply to the current operations
2 appropriations bill or the capital improvements appropriations bill. This rule shall not
3 apply to a bill or amendment requiring an actuarial note under these rules.

4 **RULE 36.2. Actuarial Notes.** – (a) Every bill or resolution proposing any change in
5 the law relative to any:

6 (1) State, municipal, or other retirement system funded in whole or in part
7 out of public funds; or

8 (2) Program of hospital, medical, disability or related benefits provided for
9 teachers and State employees, funded in whole or in part by State funds;

10 shall have attached to it at the time of its consideration by any standing committee or
11 permanent subcommittee a brief explanatory statement or note which shall include a
12 reliable estimate of the financial and actuarial effect of the proposed change to that
13 retirement or pension system. The actuarial note shall be attached to the jacket of each
14 proposed bill or resolution which is reported favorably by any standing committee or any
15 permanent subcommittee, shall be separate therefrom, and shall be clearly designated as
16 an actuarial note. A bill described in subsection (a)(1) of this Rule shall be referred to the
17 Committee on Pensions and Retirement upon its introduction.

18 (b) The sponsor of the bill or resolution shall present a copy of the measure, with a
19 request for an actuarial note, to the Fiscal Research Division which shall prepare the
20 actuarial note as promptly as possible but not later than two weeks after the request is
21 made unless an extension of time is agreed to by the sponsor as being necessary in the
22 preparation of the note. Actuarial notes shall be prepared in the order of receipt of
23 request and shall be transmitted to the sponsor of the measure. The actuarial note of the
24 Fiscal Research Division shall be prepared and signed by an actuary.

25 (c) The sponsor of the bill or resolution shall also present a copy of the measure to
26 the actuary employed by the system or program affected by the measure. Actuarial notes
27 shall be prepared and transmitted to the sponsor of the measure not later than two weeks
28 after the request is received, unless an extension of time is agreed to by the sponsor as
29 being necessary in the preparation of the note. The actuarial note shall be attached to the
30 jacket of the measure. The provisions of this subsection may be waived by the measure's
31 sponsor for a measure affecting local government retirement or pension plans not
32 administered by the State or any local government program of hospital, medical,
33 disability or related benefits for local government employees not administered by the
34 State.

35 (d) The note shall be factual and shall, if possible, provide a reliable estimate of
36 both the immediate effect and, if determinable, the long-range fiscal and actuarial effect
37 of the measure. If, after careful investigation, it is determined that no dollar estimate is
38 possible, the note shall contain a statement to that effect, setting forth the reasons why no
39 dollar estimate can be given. No comment or opinion shall be included in the actuarial
40 note with regard to the merits of the measure for which the note is prepared. Technical
41 and mechanical defects in the measure may be noted.

42 (e) When any permanent subcommittee or standing committee reports a
43 measure to which an actuarial note is attached at the time of permanent subcommittee or

1 standing committee consideration, with any amendment of such nature as would
2 substantially affect the cost to or the revenues of any retirement or pension system, the
3 Chair of the permanent subcommittee or standing committee reporting the measure shall
4 obtain from the Fiscal Research Division an actuarial note of the fiscal and actuarial
5 effect of the proposed amendment. The actuarial note shall be attached to the jacket of
6 the measure. An amendment to any bill or resolution shall not be in order if the
7 amendment affects the costs to or the revenues of a State-administered retirement or
8 pension system, unless the amendment is accompanied by an actuarial note, prepared by
9 the Fiscal Research Division, as to the actuarial effect of the amendment.

10 (f) The Fiscal Research Division shall make all relevant actuarial notes
11 available to the membership of the House.

12 **RULE 36.4. Local Legislation Affecting State Highway System.** – A local
13 bill affecting the State Highway System shall be referred to the Committee on
14 Transportation.

15 **RULE 37. Removing Bill From Unfavorable Calendar.** – A bill may be
16 removed from the unfavorable calendar upon motion carried by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
17 A motion to remove a bill from the unfavorable calendar is debatable.

18 **RULE 38. Reports on Appropriation and Revenue Bills.** – (a) All standing
19 committees, other than the Standing Committee on Appropriations, when favorably
20 reporting any bill or resolution which:

- 21 1. Carries an appropriation from the State; or
- 22 2. Requires or will require in the future substantial additional State monies
23 from the General Fund or Highway Fund to implement its provisions,
24 shall indicate same in the report, and said bill or resolution shall be
25 referred to the Standing Committee on Appropriations for a further
26 report before being acted upon by the House.

27 (b) All standing committees, other than the Standing Committee on Finance, when
28 favorably reporting any bill which in any way or manner raises revenue, reduces revenue,
29 levies a tax, authorizes the levying of a tax, an assessment, or a fee, or authorizes the
30 issue of bonds or notes, whether public, public-local, or private, shall indicate same in the
31 report, and said bill shall be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance for a further
32 report before being acted upon by the House.

33 (c) **Action on Amendment Before Re-Referral.** If any standing committee
34 recommends adoption of an amendment or committee substitute of a bill which, under the
35 rules of the House must be referred to the Standing Committees on Appropriations or
36 Standing Committee on Finance, the amendment or committee substitute shall be
37 considered and, if adopted, the amendment or substitute engrossed before the bill is re-
38 referred.

39 **RULE 39. Recall of Bill From Standing Committee; Discharge Petition.** –
40 (a) When a House bill has been introduced and referred to a standing committee, or when
41 a Senate bill has been referred to a standing committee, if after 10 legislative days the
42 standing committee has failed to report the bill, then the introducer of the bill or some
43 member designated by him may, after three legislative days' public notice given in the

1 House and delivered in writing to the Chair of the standing committee, on motion
2 supported by a majority vote of the members present and voting, recall the same from the
3 standing committee to the floor of the House for consideration and such action thereon as
4 a majority of the members present may direct.

5 (b) A motion to discharge a committee from consideration of a bill or
6 resolution may be filed with the Principal Clerk if accompanied by a petition signed by a
7 majority of the members of the House asking that the committee be discharged from
8 further consideration of the bill or resolution. No petition may be circulated for
9 signatures until 10 legislative days after the bill has been referred to the committee. No
10 petition may be circulated for signature until notice has been given on the floor of the
11 House that the petition is to be circulated. If such a motion accompanied by a valid
12 petition is filed, the Principal Clerk shall place that motion on the calendar for the next
13 legislative day as a special order of business. If the motion is adopted by the House, then
14 the committee to which the bill or resolution has been referred to is discharged from
15 further consideration of the bill or resolution, and that bill or resolution is placed on the
16 calendar for the next legislative day as a special order of business. If the committee had
17 prior to discharge adopted any amendment or committee substitute for the bill, it shall be
18 in order to offer that amendment or substitute on the floor as if it were a committee
19 amendment or substitute. The Principal Clerk shall provide a form for discharge petitions.

20 (c) This rule shall not be temporarily suspended without one day's notice on the
21 motion given in the House and delivered in writing to the Chair of the standing
22 committee, and to sustain that motion two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting
23 shall be required.

24 **RULE 39.1. Recall of Bill From Permanent Subcommittee.** – When a
25 House bill has been referred to a permanent subcommittee, if after 10 legislative days the
26 subcommittee has failed to act thereon or, at any time, with the agreement of the
27 subcommittee chair, the standing committee Chair may re-refer the bill from that
28 permanent subcommittee to another permanent subcommittee of the same standing
29 committee provided the report of the re-referral shall be made pursuant to Rule 32.

30 **RULE 39.2. Re-Referral of Bills From One Standing Committee to**
31 **Another Standing Committee.** – Upon consent of the sponsor of the bill, the Speaker,
32 the Chair of the standing committee from whom the bill is to be re-referred, and the Chair
33 of the standing committee to whom the bill is to be re-referred, the Chair may move for a
34 re-referral to another standing committee and the bill shall be re-referred upon vote of the
35 majority present during a regular session of the House.

36 **RULE 40. Calendars and Schedules of Business.** – (a) The Clerk of the
37 House shall prepare a daily schedule of business, including the Calendar of Bills and
38 Resolutions for consideration and debate that day, in accordance with the Order of
39 Business of the Day (Rule 5). The Clerk shall number all bills and resolutions in the
40 order in which they are introduced. All bills and resolutions shall be taken up as they
41 appear in each category (Rule 5(10)) in the order they were placed on the Calendar under
42 Rule 36(a).

1 (b) When a public bill has received a recommendation for a favorable report,
2 favorable report as amended, or favorable as to committee substitute, and the vote in the
3 committee was unanimous of the members present and voting, the Chair of the
4 Committee (or the Chair of the subcommittee if the bill is being reported directly to the
5 floor) may designate in the committee report that the bill is to go on the consent calendar.
6 The bill shall appear on the consent calendar for the second legislative day after the
7 report is made. The Principal Clerk shall note on the calendar for the next legislative day
8 the bills, including short titles, that will appear on the consent calendar for the following
9 legislative day. A bill shall be removed from the consent calendar if any member of the
10 House makes such request in writing to the Principal Clerk no later than one hour before
11 convening of the House on the day the bill appears on the consent calendar, and in such
12 case the bill shall be placed on the regular calendar for that day. It shall not be in order to
13 offer any amendment to a bill on the consent calendar except committee amendments.
14 The Speaker may recognize the sponsor of the bill for not to exceed two minutes of
15 debate (or a person designated by the Chair of the committee reporting the bill in the case
16 of a Senate bill). The Speaker shall then put the question on the bill. The bill shall
17 appear on the consent calendar for third reading unless a member requests, no later than
18 the adjournment of the daily session when the bill passed second reading, that the bill
19 appear on the regular calendar.

20 **RULE 41. Reading of Bills.** – (a) Every bill shall receive three readings in the
21 House prior to its passage. The first reading and reference to standing committee of a
22 House bill shall occur on the next legislative day following its introduction. The first
23 reading and reference to standing committee of a Senate bill shall occur on the next
24 legislative day following its receipt on messages from the Senate. The Speaker shall give
25 notice at each subsequent reading whether it be the second or third reading.

26 (b) No bill shall be read more than once on the same day without the concurrence
27 of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting; provided, no bill governed by
28 Article II, Section 23 of the North Carolina Constitution or described in Rule 20 (a)(2)
29 herein shall be read twice on one day under any circumstance.

30 **RULE 42. Effect of a Defeated Bill.** – (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection
31 (b) of this rule, after a bill has:

- 32 1. Been tabled,
- 33 2. Been postponed indefinitely,
- 34 3. Failed to pass on any of its readings, or
- 35 4. Been placed on the unfavorable calendar,

36 the contents of that bill or the principal provisions of its subject matter shall not be
37 considered in any other measure originating in the Senate or originating thereafter in the
38 House. Upon the point of order being raised and sustained by the Chair, that measure
39 shall be laid upon the table, and shall not be taken therefrom except by a two-thirds (2/3)
40 vote of the members present and voting.

41 (b) No local bill shall be held by the Chair to embody the contents of or the
42 principal provisions of the subject matter of any statewide measure which has been laid

1 on the table, has failed to pass on any of its readings, or has been placed on the
2 unfavorable calendar.

3 **RULE 43. Amendments.** – No amendment to a measure before the House
4 shall be in order unless the amendment is germane to the measure under consideration. A
5 House amendment deleting a previously adopted House amendment shall not be in order,
6 except that this sentence does not apply to amendments adopted under Rule 38(c).

7 If the Senate adopts an amendment or committee substitute to a House bill, the
8 House may not refuse to receive the bill on account of lack of germaneness if the Senate
9 has a similar rule.

10 Only one principal (first degree) amendment shall be pending at any one time.
11 If a subsequent or substitute principal amendment shall be offered, the Speaker shall rule
12 it out of order. However, any member desiring to offer a subsequent or substitute
13 principal amendment in opposition to the pending amendment may inform the House by
14 way of argument against the pending amendment that if it is defeated the member
15 proposes to offer another principal amendment, and the member may then read and
16 explain such proposed amendment.

17 Perfecting (or second degree) amendments may be offered and considered
18 without limitation as to number, and in the event of multiple perfecting amendments, they
19 shall be voted upon in inverse order.

20 **RULE 43.1. Engrossment.** – Bills and resolutions, except those making
21 appropriations, which originate in the House and which are amended, shall be engrossed
22 before being sent to the Senate.

23 **RULE 43.2. House Concurrence in Senate Amendments to House Bills.** –
24 The House shall not concur in a Senate amendment to a bill originating in the House until
25 the next legislative day after the day on which the House receives the Senate amendment.

26 **RULE 43.3. Committee Substitutes Adopted by the Senate to Bills Originating in the**
27 **House; Procedure for Treatment of Material Amendments Thereto.**–(a) Whenever
28 the Senate has adopted a committee substitute for a bill originating in the House, and has
29 returned the bill to the House for concurrence in that committee substitute, the House
30 may not concur in that committee substitute until the next legislative day following the
31 day on which the House receives that committee substitute.

32 (b) The Speaker may, and upon motion supported by a majority of the House
33 present and voting shall, refer the bill to an appropriate standing committee for
34 consideration of the committee substitute.

35 (c) The Speaker shall, in placing the bill on the calendar, rule whether the
36 committee substitute is a material amendment under Article II, Section 23 of the State's
37 Constitution which reads:

38 "**Revenue bills.** – No law shall be enacted to raise money on the credit of the State, or
39 to pledge the faith of the State directly or indirectly for the payment of any debt, or to
40 impose any tax upon the people of the State, or to allow the counties, cities, or towns to
41 do so, unless the bill for the purpose shall have been read three several times in each
42 House of the General Assembly and passed three several readings, which readings shall
43 have been on three different days, and shall have been agreed to by each House

1 respectively, and unless the yeas and nays on the second and third readings of the bill
2 shall have been entered on the journal."

3 If the committee substitute was referred to standing committee, the standing
4 committee shall:

- 5 1. Report the bill with the recommendation either that the House
6 concur or that the House do not concur; and
- 7 2. Advise the Speaker as to whether or not that committee substitute
8 is a material amendment under Article II, Section 23 of the
9 State's Constitution.

10 (d) If the committee substitute for a bill is not a material amendment, the question
11 before the House shall be concurrence.

12 (e) If the committee substitute for a bill is a material amendment, the receiving
13 of that bill on messages shall constitute first reading and the question before the House
14 shall be concurrence on second reading. If the motion is passed, the question then shall
15 be concurrence on third reading on the next legislative day.

16 (f) No committee substitute adopted by the Senate for a bill originating in the
17 House may be amended by the House.

18 **RULE 44. Conference Standing Committees.** – (a) Whenever the House shall
19 decline or refuse to concur in amendments put by the Senate to a bill originating in the
20 House, or shall refuse to concur in a substitute adopted by the Senate for a bill originating
21 in the House or whenever the Senate shall decline or refuse to concur in amendments put
22 by the House to a bill originating in the Senate, or shall refuse to concur in a substitute
23 adopted by the House for a bill originating in the Senate, a conference committee may be
24 appointed by the Speaker upon the Speaker's own motion or shall be appointed upon
25 request by the principal sponsor of the original bill, the Chair of the House standing
26 committee which reported the bill, or by the sponsor of the amendment in which the
27 Senate refused to concur; and the bill under consideration shall thereupon go to and be
28 considered by the joint conferees on the part of the House and Senate. In appointing
29 members to conference committees, the Speaker shall appoint no less than a majority of
30 members who generally supported the House position as determined by the Speaker.

31 (b) Only such matters as are in difference between the two houses shall be
32 considered by the conferees, and the conference report shall deal only with such matters.
33 The conference report may be made by a majority of the House members of such
34 conference committee and shall not be amended.

35 (c) If the conferees fail to agree, new conferees may be appointed. However, if
36 either house refuses to adopt the report of its conferees, the Speaker may appoint new
37 conferees.

38 (d) No vote shall be taken on adoption of a conference report until the next
39 legislative day following the report.

40 **RULE 44.1. Transmittal of Bills to Senate.** – Unless ordered by the Speaker
41 or two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, no bill shall be sent from the
42 House on the day of its passage, except on the last day of the session.

43 **VII. LEGISLATIVE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

1 RULE 45. **Elected Officers.** – (a) The House shall elect one of its members
2 Speaker.

3 (b) The House shall elect one of its members Speaker Pro Tempore who shall
4 perform such duties as the Speaker may assign and shall preside over the House in the
5 absence or incapacity of the Speaker and shall perform all of the duties of the Speaker
6 until such time the Speaker may assume the Chair.

7 (c) The House shall elect a Principal Clerk, who shall continue in office until
8 another is elected. The Speaker shall appoint a Reading Clerk and a Sergeant-at-Arms,
9 who shall serve at the Speaker's pleasure. The Principal Clerk, Reading Clerk, and
10 Sergeant-at-Arms shall have and perform duties and responsibilities, not inconsistent
11 with these Rules, as the Speaker may assign. In addition, the Sergeant-at-Arms may
12 assign the Reading Clerk additional duties, to be performed while the House is not in its
13 daily session.

14 RULE 46. **Assistants to Principal Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms.** – The
15 Principal Clerk and the Sergeant-at-Arms may appoint, with the approval of the Speaker,
16 such assistants as may be necessary to the efficient discharge of the duties of their
17 respective offices.

18 RULE 47. **Speaker's Clerk, Chaplain, and Pages.** – (a) The Speaker may appoint
19 one or more clerks to the Speaker, a Chaplain of the House, and pages to wait upon the
20 sessions of the House.

21 (b) When the House is not in session, the pages shall be under the supervision of
22 the Supervisor of Pages.

23 (c) No member may have more than 10 persons designated as honorary pages.

24 RULE 48. **Clerks and Secretaries.** – (a) Each standing committee and permanent
25 subcommittee shall have a clerk. The clerk to a standing committee or permanent
26 subcommittee shall serve as secretary to the Chair of the standing committee or
27 permanent subcommittee.

28 (b) Each member shall be assigned a secretary, unless the member has a standing
29 committee or permanent subcommittee clerk to serve as secretary.

30 (c) The selection and retention of clerks and secretaries shall be the sole
31 prerogative of the individual member or members. Such clerks and secretaries shall file
32 initial applications for employment with the Principal Clerk and shall receive
33 compensation as prescribed by the Legislative Services Commission. The employment
34 period of clerks and secretaries shall commence not earlier than the convening date of the
35 General Assembly and shall terminate not later than the final adjournment or recess of the
36 General Assembly unless employment for an extended period is approved by the
37 Speaker. The clerks and secretaries shall adhere to such uniform rules and regulations
38 not inconsistent with these Rules regarding hours and other conditions of employment as
39 the Legislative Services Commission shall fix by appropriate regulations.

40 RULE 49. **Compensation of Clerks and Secretaries.** – No clerk, laborer, or
41 other person employed or appointed under Rules 47, 48, and 49 hereof shall receive
42 during such employment, appointment, or service, any compensation from any
43 department of the State government, and there shall not be voted, paid, or awarded any

1 additional pay, bonus, or gratuity to any of them; but they shall receive only the pay now
2 provided by law for such duties and services.

3 VIII. PRIVILEGES OF THE HALL

4 RULE 50. **Admittance to Floor.** – No person except members, officers, and
5 employees of the General Assembly and former members of the General Assembly who
6 are not registered under the provisions of Article 9 of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes
7 of North Carolina shall be allowed on the floor of the House during its session, unless
8 permitted by the Speaker or otherwise provided by law. Employees of the General
9 Assembly shall wear identification tags, approved by the Legislative Administrative
10 Officer, when on the floor of the House.

11 RULE 51. **Admittance of Press.** – Reporters wishing to take down debates
12 may be admitted by the Speaker, who shall assign such places to them on the floor or
13 elsewhere, to effect this object, as shall not interfere with the convenience of the House.
14 Reporters admitted to the floor of the House shall observe the same requirements of attire
15 for members contained in Rule 12(h).

16 RULE 52. **Extending Courtesies.** – Courtesies of the floor, galleries, or lobby
17 shall be extended at the discretion of the Speaker and only by the Speaker. Requests by
18 members to extend these courtesies shall be typewritten and delivered to the Speaker. No
19 member shall orally ask the Speaker to extend these courtesies during the daily session.

20 RULE 53. **Order in Galleries and Lobby.** – In case of any disturbance or
21 disorderly conduct in the galleries or lobby, the Speaker or other presiding officer is
22 empowered to order the same to be cleared.

23 IX. GENERAL RULES

24 RULE 54. **Attendance of Members.** – No member or officer of the House
25 shall absent himself from the service of the House without leave, unless from sickness or
26 disability.

27 RULE 55. **Documents to Be Signed by the Speaker.** – All acts, addresses,
28 and resolutions and all warrants and subpoenas issued by order of the House shall be
29 signed by the Speaker or other presiding officer.

30 RULE 56. **Printing or Reproducing Materials.** – There shall be no printing
31 or reproducing of paper(s) that are not legislative in essence except upon approval of the
32 Speaker.

33 RULE 57. **Placement or Circulation of Materials.** – Persons other than
34 members of the House shall not place or cause to be placed any materials on members'
35 desks in the House Chamber without obtaining approval of the Speaker. Any material
36 placed on members' desks in the House Chamber, or circulated to House members
37 anywhere in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building, shall bear the
38 name of the originator.

39 RULE 58. **Rules, Rescission, and Alteration.** – (a) These rules shall remain in
40 effect until adoption of the permanent rules by House simple resolution passed by a
41 majority vote of the members present and voting.

42 (b) Except as otherwise provided herein, the House upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of
43 the members present and voting may temporarily suspend any rule.

1 **RULE 59. Cosponsorship of Bills and Resolutions.** – (a) Any member
2 wishing to cosponsor a bill or resolution which has been introduced may do so by
3 appearing in the office of the Principal Clerk for such purpose within one-half hour
4 following the adjournment of the session during which such bill or resolution was first
5 read and referred.

6 (b) No member shall permit anyone, other than that member's secretary or clerk, or
7 another member, to have possession of and solicit for bill or resolution cosponsorship, the
8 jacket of a bill or resolution.

9 **RULE 60. Correcting of Typographical Errors.** – The Legislative
10 Administrative Officer may correct typographical errors appearing in House bills or
11 resolutions provided that such corrections are made before ratification and do not conflict
12 with any actions or rules of the Senate and provided further that such correction be
13 approved by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of
14 the House, the Speaker, or other presiding officer.

15 **RULE 61. Assignment of Seats.** – After initial assignment of seats, a member
16 shall continue to occupy the seat to which initially assigned for the entire biennial
17 session. In event of vacancy, that member's successor will occupy the seat of the member
18 replaced for the remainder of the biennial session.

19 **RULE 61.1. Office Assignments.** – The Chair of the Standing Committee on
20 Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House shall assign to each member an office
21 space. When available, Chairs of standing committees and permanent subcommittees
22 shall be assigned an office adjacent to the room in which the standing committee or
23 permanent subcommittee generally meets if the Chair so desires. The Speaker shall be
24 assigned an office of his or her choice.

25 **RULE 61.2. Convening and Assigning Seats in the New House.** – (a) The Principal
26 Clerk of the previous House of Representatives shall convene the House of
27 Representatives at 12:00 noon on the date established by law for the convening of each
28 regular session, and preside over the body until the members elect a Speaker. In the case
29 of a vacancy, inability, or refusal to so serve, the duty shall devolve upon the sergeant-at-
30 arms of the prior House, and in the case of a vacancy in that office, or inability or refusal
31 to so serve, the duty shall devolve upon the reading clerk of the prior House.

32 (b) It shall be the duty of the Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules, Calendar,
33 and Operations of the House of the prior House to assign seats to the members of the
34 House of Representatives in its Chamber. In the case of a death of the Chair of the
35 Standing Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House, or that Chair's
36 inability or refusal to serve, the Speaker of the prior House of Representatives shall
37 appoint a person to assign seats to members of the House of Representatives in its
38 Chamber. In the event that the party that had a majority of members in the prior House
39 will no longer have a majority of members of the new House, then the duty assigned in
40 this subsection to the chair of the committee of the prior House shall instead be the duty
41 of the person nominated as Speaker by the majority party caucus for the new House, or
42 some member-elect designated by the Speaker-nominee. In the event no party will have
43 a majority, then the duty assigned in this subsection to the chair of the committee of the

1 prior House shall instead be the joint duty of one person chosen each by the caucuses of
2 the two parties having the greatest numbers of members.

3 **RULE 62. Matters Not Covered in These Rules.** – Except as herein set out
4 the rules of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the operation of the
5 House.

6 Sec. 2. This resolution is effective upon adoption.